

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /105 W

----- 055493

R 131524Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 530

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PL, UR, US

SUBJECT: FURTHER MEDIA REACTION TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S
ACCESSION

REF: WARSAW 4657, 4670; STATE 174699

1. WEEKEND COMMENTARY ON THE TRANSITION TO THE FORD
PRESIDENCY CONTINUED THE GENERAL THEME THAT, ALTHOUGH
WATERGATE WAS A "MAJOR" INTERNAL CRISIS FOR THE U.S., ANY
QUESTION OF POSSIBLE FOREIGN POLICY RAMIFICATIONS HAVE
BEEN OFFSET BY THE PRESIDENT'S AND THE SECRETARY'S
FIRST ACTIONS REAFFIRMING THE CONTINUITY OF U.S. FOREIGN
POLICY. THE MEDIA ARE NOW PERFORCE ACKNOWLEDGING THE
DIMENSIONS OF THE WATERGATE "CRISIS", WHILE CLEARLY DIS-
TINGUISHING IT AS DOMESTIC IN SCOPE. AT THE SAME TIME
NIXON'S FOREIGN POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS ARE ASSESSED AS THOSE
OF A "STATESMAN", EVEN IF, THROUGH WATERGATE, HE FAILED AS
A "POLITICIAN", TO USE THE CHARACTERIZATION OF JANUSZ
STEFANOWICZ IN SLOWO POWSZECHNE OF AUGUST 10-11. ANOTHER
POINT STRESSED IN CONNECTION WITH THE NIXON FOREIGN POLICY,
HOWEVER, IS THAT IT WAS BASED ON A "REALISTIC" APPRAISAL OF
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OBJECTIVE WORLD CONDITIONS, ESPECIALLY THE "LIMITATIONS"

OF U.S. POWER AND, AS COMMENTATOR RYSZARD WOJNA WROTE IN TRYBUNA LUDU'S AUGUST 13 EDITION, THE "EXISTENCE OF SOCIALISM AND THE POWER OF THE SOCIALIST COMMONWEALTH."

2. THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH THE SOVIET CHARGE WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN TRYBUNA LUDU'S WEEKEND REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON. THE NEWSPAPER ALSO COMMENTED EXTENSIVELY ON THE AUGUST 11 PRAVDA ARTICLE AS DEMONSTRATING THAT NIXON'S RESIGNATION WAS AN INTERNAL MATTER WHICH NEED NOT AFFECT U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS OR, DERIVATIVELY, THOSE BETWEEN POLAND AND THE U.S.

3. THE MEDIA HAVE BEGUN TO SHIF GREATER ATTENTION TO PRESIDENT FORD AND HIS STATED VIEWS ON VARIOUS FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. NEWS COMMENTARY AND FILM CLIPS ON A SATURDAY EVENING'S TELEVISION NEWS ROUNDUP PORTRAYED HIM IN HIS TRAVELS AS VICE PRESIDENT, NOTING ESPECIALLY HIS SUPPORT OF THE NIXON FOREIGN POLICY AND HIS PROMISES TO CONTINUE THAT POLICY. SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS FRONT-PAGED REPORTS ON THE CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES SENT TO THE PRESIDENT BY COUNCIL OF STATE CHAIRMAN JABLONSKI AND PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ.

4. COMMENTARY ON AUGUST 13 CONCENTRATED PARTICULARLY ON DETENTE AND THE U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP. TRYBUNA LUDU'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT NOTED THAT AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS CARRIED REPORTS FROM MOSCOW OF THE SOVIET UNION'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE THE POLICY OF DETENTE AND TO WORK WITH PRESIDENT FORD FOR IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS, AND THE PARTY DAILY HEADLINED A QUOTE ATTRIBUTED TO NBC THAT THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO SECRETARY GENERAL BREZHNEV ATTESTS TO THE PRESIDENT'S DESIRE "NOT TO INTERRUPT EVEN FOR A MOMENT" THE DIALOGUE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON.

5. RYSZARD WOJNA, IN THE ARTICLE PREVIOUSLY CITEDN STRESSED THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY IN AMERICA AND THE WORLD DESIRES CONTINUATION OF DETENTE. HOWEVER, HE POINTS OUT THAT THERE IS "NO LACK" OF FORCES IN THE CAPITALIST WORLD, AS WELL AS IN THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING THOSE IN CONGRESS, WHO WOULD SEEK TO EXPLOIT THE CHANGE OF U.S. ADMINISTRATIONS TO IMPEDE THE CURRENT TREND IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. WOJNA
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WARNS THAT THESE ELEMENTS MUST NOT BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO "MOUNT AN ANTI-DETENTE COUNTEROFFENSIVE."
DAVIS

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